

Frequently Asked Questions

Interstate 280 Bridge Hinge Replacement Project

What is a bridge hinge?

A bridge hinge connects two portions of a bridge and allows for expansion and contraction on either side. It also allows for independent movement during an earthquake.

Why can't you work at night? Why do you need to have full freeway closures?

This project involves demolition of the concrete around the old bridge hinge, removal of hinge, installation of a new bridge hinge, and cure time for the concrete. This operation takes several days and cannot be completed in a standard night closure. The Department could have had long term lane closures but decided that inconveniencing the travelling public with three 104-hour long weekend closures (totaling 312 hours = 13 days) of directional freeway closures was a much more acceptable alternative, when compared to an estimated 7 miles of traffic backup every day, twice a day, for one year.

Will the work be noisy? What kind of noise can we expect?

Nearby residents and local businesses will hear saw-cutting and removal of concrete. At night people will probably notice the backup, safety alarms that are installed on construction vehicles. Residents on the hillside may also experience increased noise.

During these extended closures, why can't you do noisy work during the day when it has less impact to residents?

When a company bids for a Caltrans construction project and is awarded a contract, the contractor chooses the order of work to allow for the most efficient construction methods. This generally saves time, taxpayer dollars, and minimizes the inconvenience to the public.